



OBSERVING IYP 2008 and beyond

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**



UNGA Declaration, 60th Session

The General Assembly,

- **Noting** that the potato is a staple food in the diet of the world's population,
- **Affirming** the need to focus world attention on the role that the potato can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty in support of achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Decides to declare the year 2008 the International Year of the Potato.

Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the implementation of the International Year of the Potato.

[22 December 2005]



International Year of the
POTATO

2008



HIDDEN TREASURE

POTATOES FEED THE HUNGRY

**It is a staple food of more than a billion people worldwide,
with a vital but often undervalued role on the global food system**





WHY IYP?

To draw global attention to:

- **The role potato can play in food security, poverty alleviation, cultural heritage, adaptation to climate change and protecting the environment.**
- **The importance of agriculture in addressing issues of global concern and its contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals.**



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POTATO and IMPORTANT ISSUES

- A good source of carbohydrates, vitamin C and other micronutrients, the potato meets growing demand for “convenience foods” in many developing countries.
- By conserving – and utilizing – the potato genetic diversity developed by their ancestors, small farmers in the Andes are helping ensure world food security.
- Around the world, rural women are essential to the conservation, seed selection, planting, harvesting, storing and marketing of potatoes.
- Developing countries are now the world’s biggest potato producers - and importers - and consumer demand is shifting from fresh tubers to processed products.
- *In vitro* conservation, molecular markers and recombinant DNA technologies are creating new opportunities in potato production and transformation.



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IYP STRATEGY

Engage partners and the potato community

- Information generation, dissemination and exchange, knowledge enhancement.
- Organizing and supporting scientific conferences, exhibitions, cultural events, and art or photographic competitions.
- Transferring proven technologies through education, extension, training
- Applying best management practices and promotion of policy and regulatory environment conducive to potato development.
- Supporting programmes, projects and value-added schemes.



PROMOTING IYP OBSERVANCE

- Contribute to funding and human resources.
- Encourage educational youth campaigns.
- Support national/regional activities.
- Promote global photo, art and science contests.
- Develop IYP website (www.potato2008.org) and publications.
- Promote sustainable development of potato-based systems.



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EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Enhanced profile of the potato leading to heightened global awareness of its role.
- Enhanced mechanisms for ensuring local empowerment.
- Enhanced international cooperation through partnership-building.
- Enhanced appreciation among the public of agricultural, nutritional, environmental and social issues and food systems in general.



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CONCLUDING REMARKS

- IYP funding - from Italy, Spain, Ireland, and McCain and Simplot.
- Expressions of interest by other Member Nations and private sector donors.
- Actual support received so far falls short of requirements. This may result in limited activities at the country-level.
- Investing in IYP will contribute to:
 - Achieving food security
 - Fighting hunger and malnutrition
 - Alleviating poverty
 - Enhancing livelihoods
 - Protecting the environment
 - Attaining the UN Millennium Goals.



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We wish you a happy International Year of the Potato 2008

